

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2, which starts with "LITTER MADE OF" with the following amended paragraph :

LITTER BOX MADE OF SEVERAL PERFORATED PANS FOR CATS OR OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 12, which starts with "Litters for cats", with the following amended paragraph :

~~Litters~~ Litter boxes for cats or other domestic animals are well ~~know~~ known in the art. A wide choice of ~~litters~~ litter boxes is also offered to consumers as alternatives to the conventional litter box, which normally consists of a simple pan filled with absorbent material. One of the objectives of these alternative ~~litters~~ litter boxes is to make them reusable in order to lower the costs associated with the replacement of the same.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 18, which starts with "Recently, new litters have become", with the following amended paragraph :

Recently, new ~~litters~~ litter boxes have become available, which ~~litters~~ litter boxes are devised to considerably facilitate the task of the consumers when it is time to get rid of the organic wastes out of it.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 22, which starts with "For example", with the following amended paragraph :

For example, US Patent no. 4,217,857 (Geddie) discloses a litter box for domestic animals. This litter box has three pans insertable into each other as to form a stack. The stack comprises an inferior pan, an intermediate pan, as well as a superior pan. The inferior and intermediate pans are interchangeable. The superior pan has a multitude of small openings so that, when the superior pan is removed from the stack, only the absorbing material flows through these small openings, while the organic wastes solidified and absorbed by the absorbing material remain trapped into the superior pan. The consumer only has to empty the content of the superior pan into a garbage can. To reuse the litter box, the consumer must remove the intermediate pan containing the absorbing material, now emptied from any organic wastes, from the inferior pan. Then, he must insert the superior pan into the inferior pan and decant the content of the intermediate pan into the superior pan. Once the intermediate pan is empty, it is placed at the bottom of the stack. One problem with this litter box is that the consumer has to decant the absorbing material from one pan to another in a precise order. Moreover, as it was mentioned previously, only the inferior and intermediate pans are interchangeable, since these are the only pans which are identical.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 8, which starts with "Another example of", with the following amended paragraph :

Another example of a litter box for cats or other domestic animals is proposed in US Patent no. 4,716,853 in the name of the Applicant (Scotto D'Aniello). As compared to the litter box of GEDDIE, the litter box of SCOTTO D'ANIELLO is a multi-functional disposable litter box. In addition to a pan comprising a row of absorbent material, it also comprises a cover that can be mounted onto the top of the pan. The cover comprises various bowls that may be filled up with water and/or food. This litter box is an

example of "all-in-one" litter box that can be found on the market. However, this structure does not make it easy to clean.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 22, which starts with "More precisely", with the following amended paragraph :

More precisely, the first object of the invention is to provide a reusable litter box that can be easily and efficiently cleaned of organic wastes.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 25, which starts with "Another object of the present invention", with the following amended paragraph :

Another object of the present invention is to provide a litter box of a "ready-to-use" type, which comprises an absorbing material in it.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 28, which starts with "In accordance with the invention", with the following amended paragraph :

In accordance with the invention, these objects are achieved with a litter box for cats or other domestic animals comprising a least three pans insertable into each other to form a stack. The pans are interchangeable within the stack. Moreover, each pan comprises a floor and a peripheral wall forming together an open container capable of receiving a layer of an absorbent material for absorbing and solidifying organic wastes. The litter box also comprises a plurality of openings made within the floor of each pan. The openings of each pan are located at positions different from the openings of the other pans in such a manner that the openings of each pair of adjacent pans be vertically out of line. Each opening is size sized to

retain the organic wastes while allowing the absorbing material to ~~past~~
pass theretrough therethrough.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 7, which starts with "An advantage of this litter is", with the following amended paragraph :

An advantage of this litter box is that it is not necessary to use a shovel to pick up and dispose of the organic wastes.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 10, which starts with "Another advantage of this litter is", with the following amended paragraph :

Another advantage of this litter box is that it is not necessary to transfer the absorbing material from one pan to another after filtration, like in the case of the litter box disclosed by GEDDIE.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 21, which starts with "Figure 1 is a perspective view", with the following amended paragraph :

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a litter box according to a first preferred embodiment of the invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 24, which starts with "Figure 2 is an exploded perspective", with the following amended paragraph :

Figure 2 is an exploded perspective view from a section of the litter box of figure 1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 26, which starts with "Figures 3a, b and c", with the following amended paragraph :

Figures 3a, b and c are top views of the pans of the litter box shown in figures 1 and 2, showing the openings located at different positions within the pans.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 29, which starts with "Figure 4 is a transversal", with the following amended paragraph :

Figure 4 is a transversal cross-section view of the litter box shown in the previous figures.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 1, which starts with "Figure 5 is a view similar to", with the following amended paragraph :

Figure 5 is a view similar to the one of figure 4, illustrating how the litter box can be used.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 4, which starts with "Figures 6a, b and c", with the following amended paragraph :

Figures 6a, b and c are partial top views of the pans of a litter box according to a second preferred embodiment of the invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 7, which starts with "Figure 7 is a broken transversal", with the following amended paragraph :

Figure 7 is a broken transversal cross-section view of the litter box made of the pans shown in figures 6a, b and c.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 12, which starts with "As illustrated in the accompanying drawings", with the following amended paragraph :

As illustrated in the accompanying drawings, the litter box according to the present invention comprises three pans 2 sized to be easily insertable into each other. Each pan has a floor 4 and a peripheral wall 6. The floor 4 and the peripheral wall 6 form together an open container 8 capable of receiving a layer of an absorbing material 22 for absorbing and solidifying organic wastes. The pans are advantageously ~~moulded~~ molded in plastic to reduce the weight of the litter box. However, other materials could be used as alternatives.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 20, which starts with "Preferably, each pan 2", with the following amended paragraph :

Preferably, each pan 2 has an upper rim 10 opposite to the floor 4 to prevent infiltration of the absorbing material 22 between the peripheral wall 6 when the pans 2 are inserted into each other. These rims 10 also facilitate the transportation of the litter box by means of grippers 12 introduced into the rims 10 for holding together the rims 10 of all the pans 2. Other means could however be used, such as pliers (not illustrated) exercising a pressure onto the peripheral wall 6 so that the pans 2 cannot be released from each other easily. ~~A detachable band made of gluing material~~ An adhesive tape located all around the rim 10 could also be used as attaching means. The adhesive tape holds together the rims 10 of the pans 2.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 29, which starts with "Figure 5 illustrates", with the following amended paragraph :

Figure 5 illustrates one way of using this litter box. When organic wastes are solidified and absorbed by the absorbing material 22, the user can remove the upper pan 2 of the stack. This pan 2 contains the absorbing material 22. The user then shakes gently the pan 2 on top of the other pan 2 so that only the absorbing material 22, free of wastes, is filtrated by the openings 20. Therefore, the absorbing material 22 fills the next inferior open container 8. After all the absorbing material 22, free of wastes, has been filtrated, the organic wastes can be thrown in a garbage can. To reuse the litter box, the same pan 2 has to be placed at the bottom of the stack. Since the openings 20 of one pan 2 are not vertically aligned with those of the others, there is no risk of absorbing material 22 leaking outside the litter box.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 8, which starts with "According to the second preferred embodiment", with the following amended paragraph :

According to the second preferred embodiment of the invention illustrated in figures 6a, 6b, 6c, and 7, the openings 20 are located within the cavities 18 to facilitate the outflow of the absorbing material 22. These openings 20 are in the shape of slim rectangular slots that are located in such a manner that the openings 20 of each pair of adjacent pans 2 be out of line vertically. Only the absorbing material 22 can get through these openings 20. The cavities 18 are preferably of rectangular shape and have a width of $\frac{3}{4}$ " and a length of 1". For example, the pan 2 may have a dozen cavities 18 by row and between twenty-four (24) to twenty-eight (28) rows. The openings 20 of a same pan 2 are all located at the same position within their cavities 18, while being all located at different positions from the openings 20 of the cavities 18 of the two other pans 2. Such eliminates

the risk of leakage of the absorbing material 22 between two adjacent pans 2 when the same are inserted into each other. Leakage of the absorbing material 22 outside of the litter box is thus prevented.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 23, which starts with "The litter of the present invention", with the following amended paragraph :

The litter box of the present invention can be sold with or without the absorbing material 22. In the latter case, the user will have to buy the absorbing material 22. However, if the absorbing material 22 is included with the litter box when the user buys it, the absorbing material can be located within the upper container 8 which is then covered with a film 24 (see figures 1 and 2) to prevent damage while transporting the litter box.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 4, which starts with "Disclosed is a litter for cats", with the following amended paragraph :

~~Disclosed is a litter~~ A litter box for cats or other domestic animals, which comprises three pans insertable into each other to form a stack. The position of the pans is interchangeable and each pan has openings in its inferior part for filtration of an absorbing material used to solidify and absorb the organic wastes. The openings of each pan are located at positions different from the openings of the other pans in such a manner that the openings of each pair of adjacent pans be vertically out of line. One advantage of this ~~litter~~ litter box is that it is not necessary to use a shovel to pick up and dispose of the organic wastes.